Lake Mead
Environmental Education

National Recreation Area
National Park Service

FIELD PROGRAM
Grade 4 - *"Stories in Stone"*

Theme

The rocks and landforms around Lake Mead tell the story of past environments.

Objectives

Students will identify three types of rocks found in the Lake Mead region
Using a map and compass, students will locate and identify local landforms.
Students will correlate rocks with local landforms and compare the environments in which they were formed.

Vocabulary

Crust-outermost layer of the earth
Core-solid, central part of the earth, made of iron and nickel
Mantle-semi-molten interior of the earth located between the crust and core
Lava-molten rock that escapes or comes through the crust as a result of a crack or a volcano
Magma-molten material generated within the earth
Igneous-rock that has solidified from lava
Sedimentary-rock formed by the settling or deposition of sediment
Metamorphic-rock that has undergone change as a result of heat and pressure

Background Information

The landscape of the Lake Mead region showcases a variety of different environments which are preserved in area rocks and landforms. Oceans, lakes, deserts, forests, and volcanoes have all existed in what is now Southern Nevada! A close examination of these rocks and landforms gives us clues as to what these past environments were like.

Before the Ranger Visits your Classroom

Have your students create a geologist's field journal.
Have them sketch some of the landforms that can be seen from school.
These sketches will be compared to the types of landforms that they encounter on their field trip.
Have the students bring their journals on the day of the field trip.

After the Ranger Visits your Classroom

Using a map and compass locate and identify local landforms. Discuss how these might have formed.

Teachers! - check out our new web site at http://www.nps.gov/lame/classindex.htm